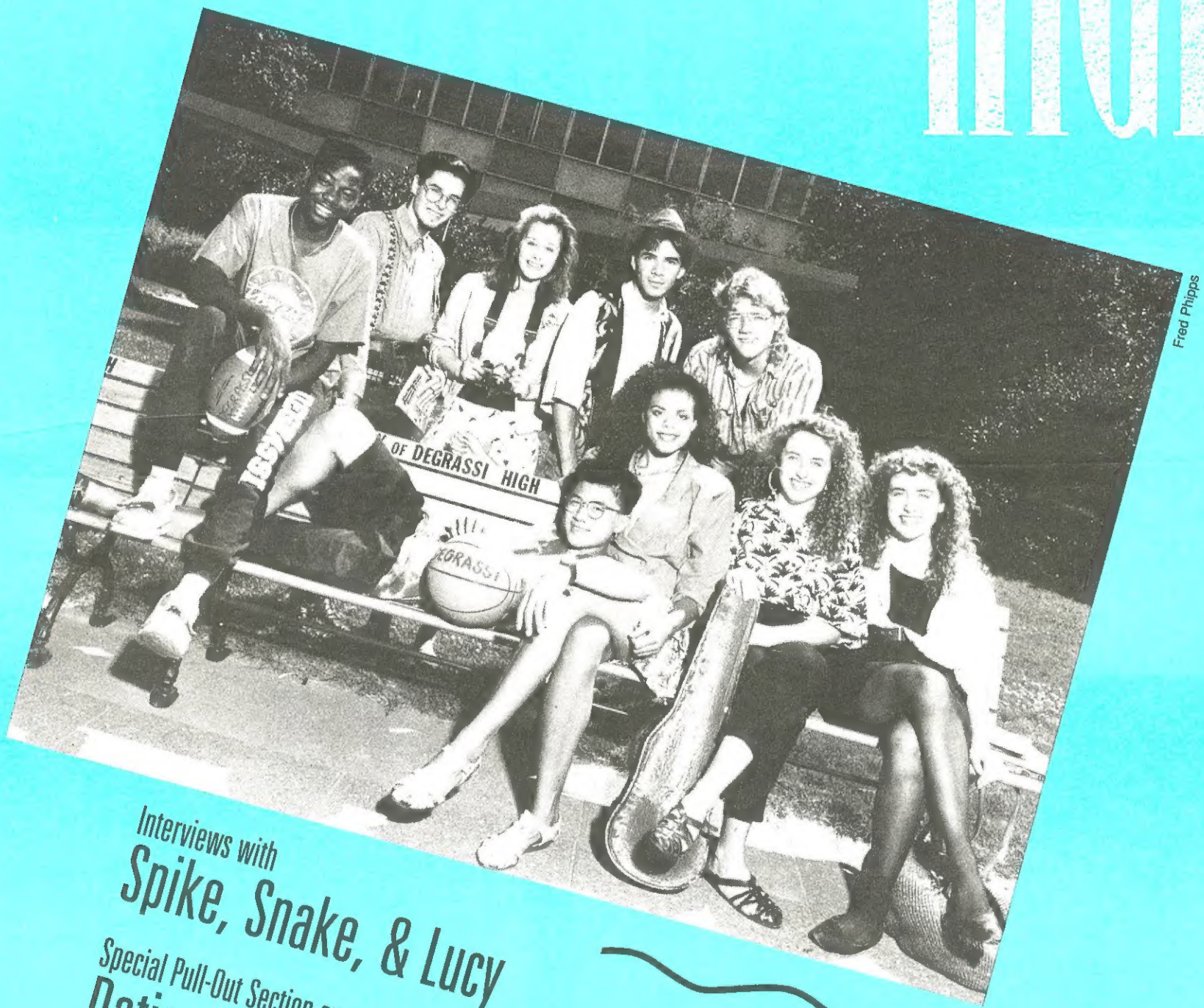


The new season premieres
on public television
the week of January 13, 1990.
Check your local TV listings
for the date, time, and station.

DEGRASSI HIGH



Fred Phipps

Interviews with
Spike, Snake, & Lucy
Special Pull-Out Section on
Dating, Sex, & AIDS
The Stress of
Divorce

Presented on PBS
by WGBH Boston.
WGBH

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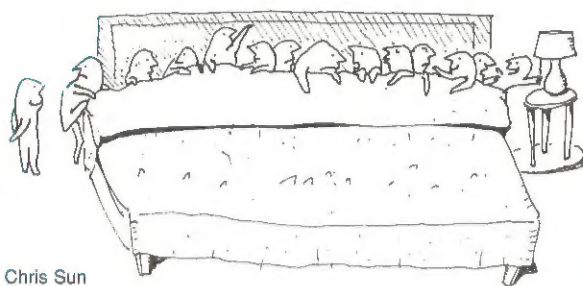
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Season Preview

Janet Webb



The twins nervously await the results of Erica's pregnancy test in this season's first episode.

A new romance at Degrassi? Dream on, Arthur!



Janet Webb



Janet Webb

The Zit Remedy is back and ready to hit the airwaves with their new video.

Degrassi Resources

Additional Newspapers

To order additional copies or classroom sets of this newspaper, send \$1 per copy for postage and handling or \$10 for a set of 25 copies to:

Degrassi High
Student Newspaper
Box 2222-DG
South Easton, MA 02375

Discussion and Activity Guides

To order the Term 4 Discussion and Activity Guide for classroom use, send a check or money order for \$2 (purchase orders not accepted) to:

Degrassi High
Term 4 Discussion and Activity Guide
Box 2222-DG
South Easton, MA 02375
(617) 963-8666

Videocassettes

Videocassettes of *Degrassi Junior High* episodes are available for rental or purchase. For information, contact:

Direct Cinema
P.O. Box 69799
Los Angeles, CA 90069-9976
(213) 652-8000

What's New at Degrassi

by Karen Barss

Degrassi's back with a new title and new look. Here's a rundown on what's changed and what hasn't.

Moving to High School

When the *Degrassi Junior High* characters graduated from eighth grade, the producers had two choices. Either they could hire a new cast to continue playing junior high kids, or they could follow the original characters as they went on to high school. After all the support the *Degrassi* kids have received from fans over the years, the decision was easy. And so *Degrassi High* was born. It combines the best of *Degrassi Junior High* with a new school, some new faces, and tough new challenges and heartbreaks.

For *Degrassi Junior High*, the producers used the top floor of an abandoned junior high as the set. But they needed a new backdrop for *Degrassi High*. The building they found was actually part of a community college, but it had the look of a high school. It was much bigger than a junior high, with lots of windows and corridors and classrooms – and most important, it was empty.

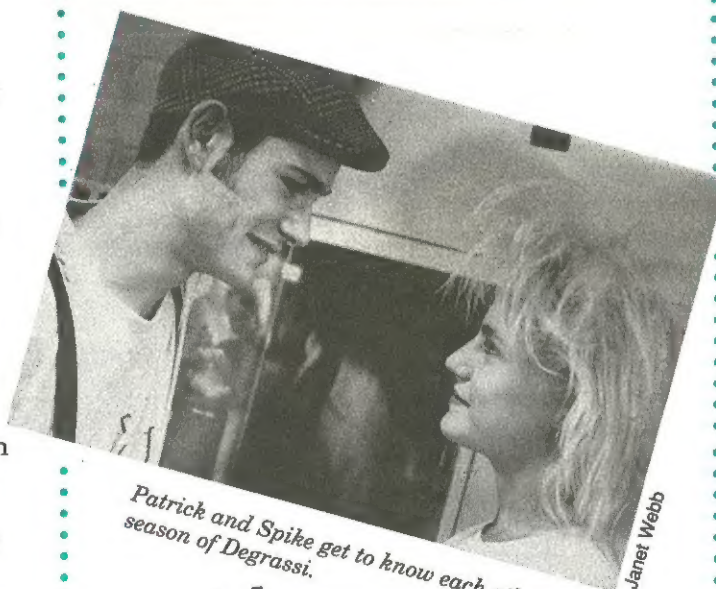
Degrassi High has a lot more space and lots more people. In *Degrassi Junior High*, you usually knew the characters in the background. The *Degrassi High* cast includes a team of “extra extras,” actors who never say a line and have no role other than filling in the background. Also, in high school the characters will be moving from classroom to classroom more, studying with different teachers.

Another difference is that more of the action occurs outside of school, because as kids get older, their lives become more independent and what goes on outside of school becomes more important. Therefore, the new season features a lot more filming at night and on location – on the street, at the movies, at parties, and on the job.

New Faces...

Some new characters join the cast this season, 10 new actors in all. One of the first groups the ninth graders meet is a gang of bullies, led by Dwayne, who appeared in earlier *Degrassi Junior High* episodes. His sidekicks are Tabi and her boyfriend, Nick. These three are determined to continue the tradition of initiating ninth graders, even though it's against the rules.

Veteran cast member Kathleen sets her sights on an eleventh grader named Scott. Unfortunately, their relationship has a lot more downs than ups. And Spike starts to open up to Patrick, a recent immigrant from Ireland. They like the same music and he writes some of his own. Another new character, Bronco, a friend of Clutch, will have a bigger role as the series continues into next season.



Patrick and Spike get to know each other on the new season of *Degrassi*.
Janet Webb

and Old Friends

And what about the characters you know? As the season begins, we discover that Erica had a summer romance, and she's worried that she may be pregnant. A tough test faces the twins, challenging their relationship.

Yick has changed a lot over the summer, much to Arthur's chagrin. While Arthur was

touring France with his mother, Yick hung out at the mall with some new friends. He's sporting a new, “cooler” look, and his friendship with Arthur, whom he considers a nerd, is taking a beating.

As Caitlin enters high school, she wants to devote more time to her political and environmental concerns. Joey, on the other hand, remains his happy-go-lucky self, whose major concern is making a music video of the Zits. Caitlin finds herself attracted to Claude, an eleventh grader who appears to share her concerns.

Joey, Snake, and Wheels continue to pursue musical fame and fortune. They team up with Lucy, who has a video camera, to produce a music video of the Zits. Tempers flare, however, when Lucy demands script and cast approval. Lucy pursues her interest in video while she spends more and more time with L.D., who is in the hospital.

The romance between Michele and B.L.T. continues. Michele has a tough time as her parents split up and she has to live with her strict father. Simon and Alexa's relationship survived the summer intact, but it hits some bumps as Simon's modeling makes him a local celebrity and heartthrob.

Spike and Liz are still hanging out together. Spike's daughter, Emma, is in day care at school. Liz becomes an active opponent of abortion and finds it difficult to express her opinion without hurting others.

Melanie, Diana, Maya, and Kathleen go through a lot this season as well, with Kathleen struggling through her first romance and Diana trying to become more independent.

If you want to get the full stories, come to *Degrassi High*!

Dear Degrassi,

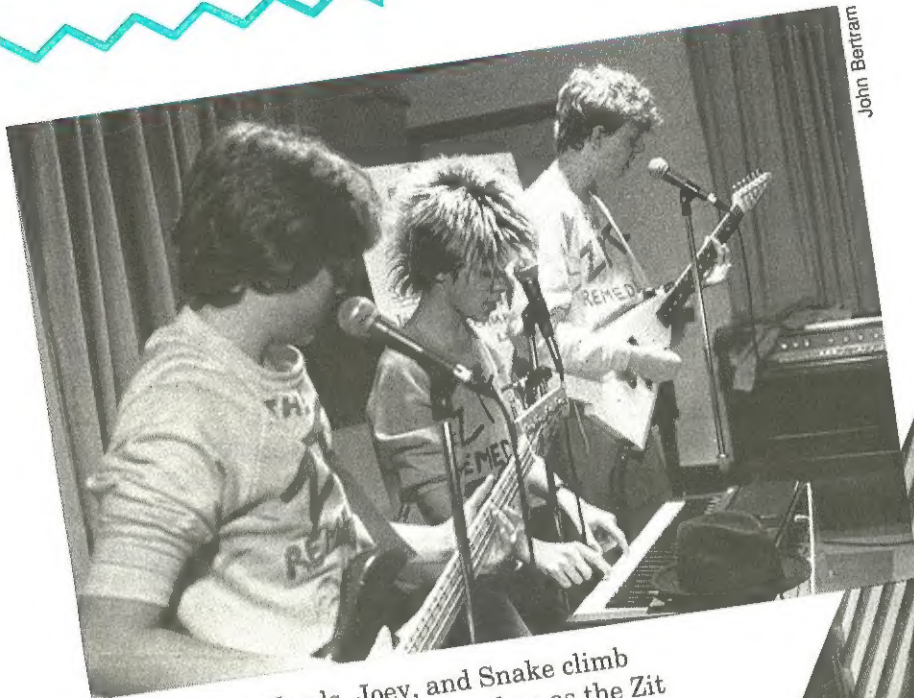
My problem is that I can't forget my ex-boyfriend. I really loved him a lot and I still do. Can you tell me how I can get him out of my mind? – *Lovesick*

Dear Lovesick,

It's really hard to forget someone when you break up. It feels like the pain will never go away. For me, it helps a lot to stay really busy. I get involved with school activities, go out with my friends – anything to keep from sitting around and moping. Don't go looking for a replacement right away. You wouldn't like to be used by someone on the rebound. Besides, I always seem to meet new guys when I'm not even looking. Just keep doing the things you like to do and you're bound to meet someone else with similar interests. – *Caitlin*

DEGRASSI YEARBOOK

A look back at some of the faces and events from Degrassi Junior High.



John Bertram

Best friends Wheels, Joey, and Snake climb the long, hard road to superstardom as the Zit Remedy. Captained by class clown Joey, the three friends share good times – and tragedy, after Wheels's adopted parents are killed by a drunk driver.



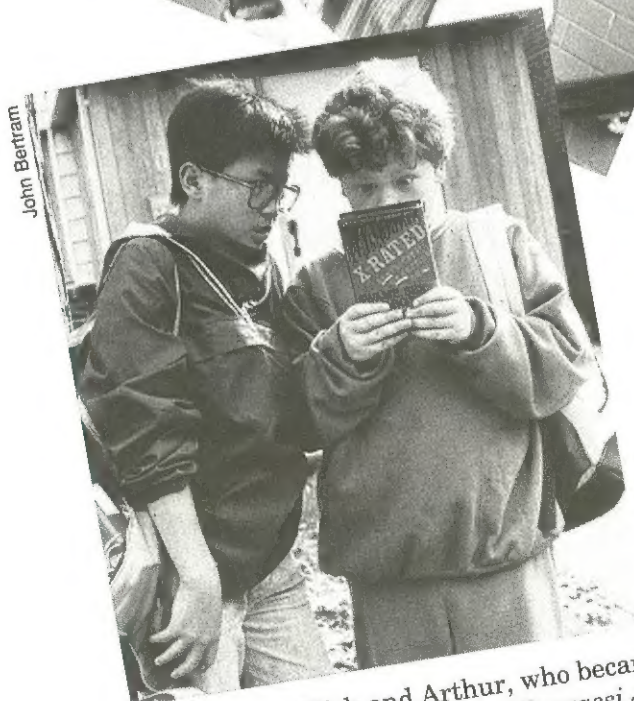
John Bertram

In seventh grade, Shane and Spike discuss the responsibilities of parenthood after they learn Spike is pregnant. Although Spike leaves school, she returns in eighth grade and struggles to adjust to her new life as the mother of Emma.



John Bertram

Lucy's parents both work long hours, and she sometimes resents spending so much time at home alone. She is at first flattered when Mr. Colby, a substitute teacher, makes her his favorite. But when he becomes a little too friendly, she's reluctant to report him, until he returns to school and tries the same approach on an unsuspecting Susie.



John Bertram

Yick and Arthur, who became fast friends on their first day at *Degrassi Junior High*, share their concerns about puberty and their nonexistent growth spurts. When Arthur's mother wins the lottery, Yick has trouble dealing with his friend's sudden wealth, but memories, such as their experience with X-rated video, pull them through.



Janet Webb

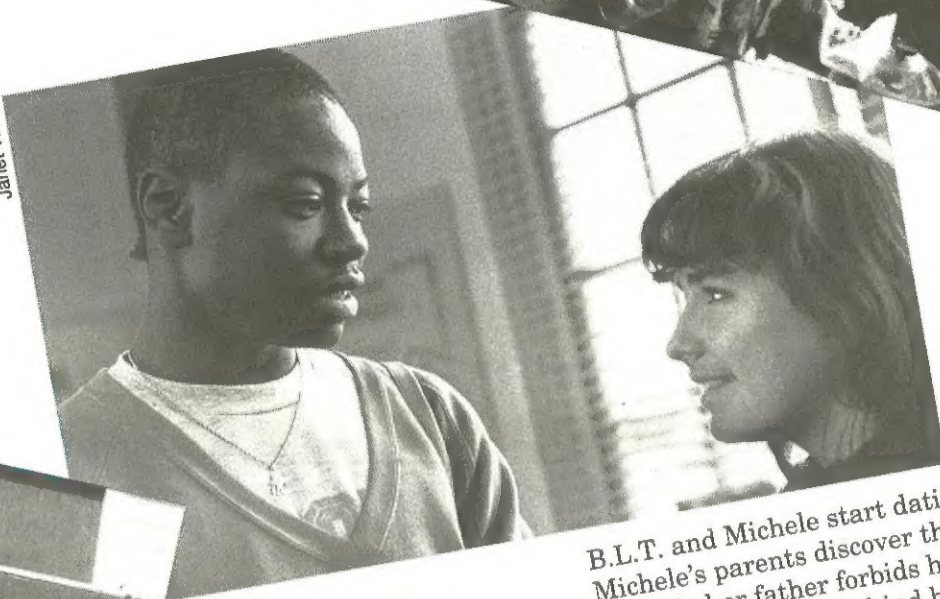
Twins Erica and Heather, inseparable sisters and friends from the start, have their differences as time goes on — over boyfriends, clothes, and abortion.



John Bertram

Kathleen feels humiliated by her mother's alcoholism. In an attempt to gain some control over her life, she goes overboard trying to control her weight. Best friend Melanie tries to help Kathleen face her bulimia.

Janet Webb



B.L.T. and Michele start dating, but when Michele's parents discover that her boyfriend is black, her father forbids her to see him. The romance continues behind her father's back with her mother's support.

Janet Webb



Snake has always looked up to his all-star athlete brother, Glenn. However, when Glenn comes home from medical school and announces to the family that he is gay, Snake has a hard time working out his feelings.

Janet Webb



The romance between Joey and Caitlin has gone through many false starts. Initially, Joey was only interested in having her help him with his homework. When Joey finally asks Caitlin out, he is only trying to win a bet. But he discovers he likes her and their romance continues, with Joey escorting Caitlin to the graduation dance.

SPIKE SPEAKS

... about hair, music, and babies.

Ramah McKay and Jennie Bloom, both 12 years old, interviewed Amanda Stepto, 19, who plays Spike on *Degrassi*, at the WGBH Ice Cream FunFest in Boston. Amanda was on hand to talk about *Degrassi*, sign autographs, and demonstrate her hair-styling techniques on her more daring fans!

Q: What do you do every day to get your hair that way?

A: Hair spray, lots of hair spray. Lots of people try to put their hair up for the first time and their hair isn't used to it. With my

hair, I can go to sleep with it up, and it's practically the same when I wake up!

Q: What's your favorite kind of music?

A: I like punk rock groups.

Q: What's your favorite movie?

A: I liked *Fatal Attraction* and I love John Candy films.

Q: What's your favorite food?

A: Well, I'm a vegetarian so my choices are limited, but I like pizza.



Fred Phipps

Q: What's your favorite color?

A: I don't really have a favorite color, but I like black, purple, and red. Strong, solid colors.

Q: Do you have any pets?

A: Not at the moment because I'm living in an apartment and it would be really hard to have a pet. But in my lifetime, I've had about 13 dogs and tons of cats.

Q: What's it like playing a teenage mom?

A: Well, it's very interesting. Not everyone gets to play a teenage mom. I like it.

Q: Do you like working with a baby?

A: No. It cries too much because it's around so many people. It's too heavy to carry, but almost every day I have to carry it. And this particular baby really hates me!

Q: How would you describe Spike?

A: I would describe Spike as a young teenage mom who's mixed up and confused. She feels alone because every guy she's dealt with has hurt her in some way. People would probably think she's crabby, but she's just insecure.

Q: If you could make up your own character, would she be anything like Spike?

A: Hmmm. I guess so. I'd make her more happy, because Spike is always sad or depressed. And she'd be more fun because Spike is sort of boring. But then it's hard to have a social life when you have a baby!

Who do you think you are?

by Steve Nadis

It wasn't until my freshman year in high school that I first heard the expression "identity crisis." We were reading *The Great Gatsby* by Fitzgerald – or was it *A Farewell to Arms* by Hemingway? In any case, our teacher told us that all teens have to face their own identity crisis.

I didn't see what the crisis was. I knew who I was, and I knew why I was sitting there in class – because I *had* to. It was The Law. Which made me think, maybe the teachers had it all wrong. I mean, what were they doing there in school, when they had a choice to be somewhere else? Maybe they were the ones with the identity crises and not us.

I definitely knew who I was then, but I'm not so sure anymore. One thing I've learned is that the older you get, the less sure you are about things that you used to be certain of. It's kind of like that old grade-school chant: "The more you study, the more you know. The more you know, the more you forget. The more you forget, the less you know. So why study?"

It seems like the older I've gotten – and now I'm quite ancient, being more than twice as old as I was that freshman year in high school – the less I know, or at least the less I'm absolutely certain of. You come to realize that the important questions are not as simple as you once imagined. And the answers are not

always black and white. They're often rather gray. It's funny, because that fuzzy way of looking at the world and seeing how complicated it really is, is what some people mean by "wisdom."

When I finished college, I was pretty darn close to going to graduate school and studying physics. If I had finished and gotten a degree, people would have called me a "physicist." I'd have been reading physics journals, going to physics seminars, and spending all my time talking about elementary particles and other life-and-death matters.

But instead of going to graduate school, I decided to write a book, and when I finished that, another one. People started calling me a "writer," and soon I started calling myself a writer too. That was what I did day and night. So, in a sense, writing gave me my identity.

But I also know that, if things had been just a little different, I'd be a physicist now, and not a writer. Would I be a different person? In some ways, yes. In other ways, I suppose not.

I guess what I'm trying to say is that you shouldn't be worried about not worrying about the identity crisis when you're in high school. Because you'll have plenty of time for that later. In fact, you can spend every day trying to figure out who you are, and you'll never know for sure. But in the end, it doesn't really matter who you think you are. It's what you do that counts.



Chris Sun

Straight talk from the Degrassi High public television series

Dating, Sex, and AIDS

The Dating Game

by Leslie Anderson

Nothing is simple about dating. Just ask 14-year-old Nikel. First, he has to impress the girl and get her to go out with him. Then, if he wants to be part of the crowd, he has to impress the guys.

"Some people, they ask you, 'Who do you go with?' You tell them and they ask, 'Did you have sex with her yet?' You say no, and they call you virgin and stuff." Being a virgin isn't something most teenage boys brag about. But Nikel says neither he nor his girlfriend, who he's been seeing for one month, feels ready to have sex. In fact, more than half of all 17-year-olds in the U.S. are virgins.

"I think you should be older," Nikel says. "Cause if you have a kid, you gotta go to school and have a job. And that's too much. All your time is going to be in the house with that kid." So for now, Nikel and his girlfriend are happy having fun together, going to parties, to movies, and kissing.

When you start dating someone, they may expect you to have sex, or you may think it's the thing to do, but it can be hard to sort out your feelings. Sex can mean love and romance, but it can also mean pregnancy and disease — herpes, gonorrhea, and worst of all, AIDS. And it almost always means confusing emotions.

Asking yourself some questions can help you decide if you are ready. Do you really want to have sex, or is your partner pushing you into it? Are you afraid you'll lose him or her if you say no? Can you talk to your partner about it? Would you feel comfortable saying, "Let's use a condom?"

"I don't think there's an age," says Pam, 17. "But if you're able to talk about it and be responsible about using birth control, I think that's an indication you're mature enough."

Although Pam has graduated from high school and has dated her boyfriend for five months, she wants to wait. "I think we still need time to know each other better. Sex isn't all that's to be found in a relationship," she explains.

The pressure to have a boyfriend or girlfriend starts early. Everyone — your best friend, your parents, older brothers and sisters — wants to know about your love life. "For girls," says Tina Alu, a sexuality educator, "there is the pressure to have a boyfriend



that her friends approve of. Then, the pressure to juggle that with parental approval. There's the ambivalence between doing what her boyfriend wants and what she feels is right for her. There's the fear of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, and the fear of her reputation."

It's just as tough for boys, she adds. "There is that pressure to prove they are a man. If a boy wants to take his time or isn't interested in beginning a sexual relationship, he has to deal with [friends asking], 'What's wrong with you?' Boys are always expected to be interested in sex no matter what."

But when you ask people what they want in a relationship, sex is usually not at the top of the list. "I want a nice person, someone who's going to treat me right," says Tina, 15. "I don't want him to lie to me."

"I just want someone to relate to," says Aubrey, 17. "It's not all about having a physical relationship. It's more like having a relationship in your mind and in your heart."

Once you have found Mr. or Ms. Right, what then? It's all up to you. There is no script to follow in a relationship. Whether or not you have sex depends on what feels right to you.

Ellen, 17, thinks it's sad that so many kids start to have sex before they're truly ready. "They think that by having sex you keep a person, you love a person, that love is necessarily sex," she says. "There are other ways to express love. Holding hands. Sharing. A commitment."

Everything You've Always Wanted to Know About AIDS* *...but were afraid to ask

A Play in One Act

by Warren J. Blumenfeld

James, Maria, and Carla are eating lunch in the cafeteria. It's a beautiful spring day outside.

James: It's so great out today! Let's go to the beach after school!

Maria: I can't today. I signed up to work on the teen AIDS hotline downtown.

Carla: Why would you do a thing like that?

Maria: Because I want to help any way I can.

James: But you're only 15. What's AIDS got to do with you?

Maria: Lots of teenagers don't think AIDS affects them, but it does. I went to a training session yesterday, and I couldn't believe

what they told us. Do you know that more than one-fifth of people with AIDS are in their twenties? Since it can take ten years for symptoms to show, that means that most of these people got the virus that causes AIDS when they were teenagers.

Carla: What exactly is AIDS, anyway?

Maria: AIDS stands for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. "Acquired" means that you get it from someone else. "Immune Deficiency" means that your body's defenses against disease are damaged. And "syndrome" means that AIDS can result in a number of different illnesses and infections that can cause death.

James: But what causes AIDS?

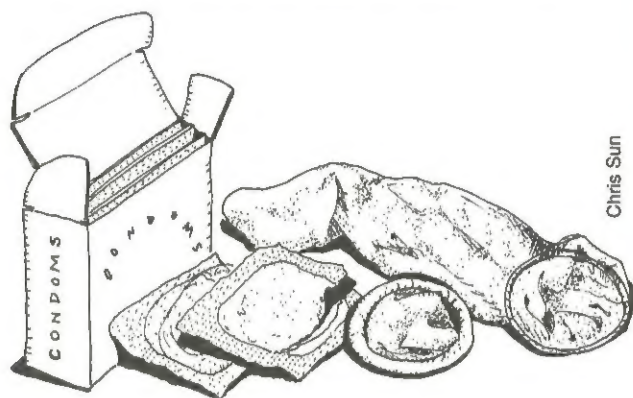
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Playing It Safe

by Leslie Anderson

Condoms do more than prevent pregnancy. They can save your life.

Aubrey strolled nervously through the drug-store. He walked past magazines, shampoos, deodorants. His stomach churned as he passed the toothpastes and hairsprays. Finally, he arrived. Condoms. There, in a rack, sat rows of boxes, a dozen different kinds to choose



from. Lambskin. Latex. Lubricated. Dry. Ribbed. Smooth. Flavored. Plain.

"I just looked at them," he recalls. Then he kept walking.

Maybe he wasn't quite ready for this. Aubrey went around the store again, absent-mindedly tossing things he didn't really need into his shopping basket. When he came by the condom section again, he grabbed a box.

To his relief, nobody said anything at the check-out counter.

"I didn't look the cashier in the eye. I didn't want to see anybody."

Buying condoms has been a rite of passage for generations of teenagers. For boys, carrying a condom in your wallet has traditionally meant you are a man of the world. Nowadays, some girls carry them in their purses. But suddenly, in this age of AIDS, using condoms has become deadly serious. They can save your life.

"The kids in high school are starting to be more open about using condoms," says Pam, 17. "But there are still kids who say, 'Nothing's going to happen to me.'"

You may think you're safe because you and your partner don't fall into one of the so-called high-risk groups – homosexuals, hemophiliacs, and intravenous drug users. But it's not who you are, it's what you do that puts you at risk.

And how can you be sure that the ONE person your girlfriend or boyfriend slept with before didn't have sex with someone else who was infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS? A person can carry and pass on the virus for years before it makes them ill, and it takes six months to one year for it to show up on a blood test.

"Teenagers are definitely at risk," says Vincent Longo, an AIDS educator. "The fact that you're 15 or 16 and really healthy now is no guarantee that, in five or six years or so, you won't have AIDS – unless you take certain precautions."

But how, boys might ask, do you take out a condom and roll it on without ruining the romantic mood? Try using a little humor. And instead of fumbling by yourself, let your partner put the condom on you. Says Louis, 18, "Condoms don't feel as good, but you gotta live with it, if you want to protect yourself."

And how, a girl might ask, do you ask your boyfriend to use one when he wants to do it "the natural way"? Shelly Mains, a sexuality educator, suggests reasoning with him like this: "Look, we're in a relationship because we care about each other. If you care about me, you want me to feel comfortable. I can't if I'm worried about umpteen million things happening to my body."

Once you've decided to use condoms, how do you go about it?

- First, buy the right kind. You can get condoms at drug stores and from many health clinics. Most are one-size-fits-all, although some are designed to fit more snugly than others. Buy condoms made of latex. Do not buy lambskin condoms, because they have tiny pores that disease can pass through.
- Buy condoms coated with a spermicide called Nonoxynol-9, which helps kill sperm and HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.
- Use a contraceptive foam along with the condom. This provides extra protection against both pregnancy and disease.
- Buy lubricated condoms or use a water-based lubricant such as K-Y Jelly. Do not use an oil-based lubricant such as Vaseline, which can cause the condom to break.
- Place the condom on the tip of the erect, or hard, penis. Gently roll the condom all the

way down. Hold the tip of the condom and squeeze out the air.

- After ejaculation, while the penis is still hard, the boy should pull out, while holding on to the base of the condom so the semen doesn't spill out.
- Use a new condom every time you have sex.

Saying **NO**: It's Not So Easy

by Bradley R. Cohen and Shoshana Rosenfeld, R.N.

Most teens have heard the slogan "Say No" – to drugs, sex, gangs, and other things. But saying no is not so easy. Here are some tips that have worked for other teens. Try a few and see what works for you.

- Change the subject, or say "I'll think about it" (and do!).
- Take a deep breath. State what you think clearly. You may have to repeat yourself.
- Figure out ahead of time what your limits are, so you will be aware of when they are being crossed.
- Communication is key. Do not assume another person can read your mind.
- Practice by telling a friend "no" before you are in a bad situation.



- Walk away.
- If you feel physically threatened, get out of there. If that is difficult to do, call a friend, neighbor, your parents, or the police.
- Share success stories with friends; it will help you and them feel more confident the next time.
- Be up-front with others about your fears and feelings. For example, say, "I feel angry when you do that."

AIDS Terms

AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) A condition caused by a virus that attacks a person's immune system and damages its ability to fight disease. There is currently no cure for AIDS.

antibody A protein produced by blood cells that tries to kill viruses and bacteria.

condom A covering, usually made of latex, worn over the penis to prevent pregnancy and the spread of disease during sexual intercourse.

hemophilia (pronounced "he-mo-feel-i-ya") A hereditary condition, mainly in men, that prevents the blood from clotting.

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) The virus that causes AIDS. You can test positive for the virus without having any AIDS symptoms.

immune system A system in the body that helps ward off viruses, bacteria, and germs.

intravenous drug A drug injected into the veins with a needle.

safer sex Sexual practices, including using condoms, that reduce the risk of spreading disease.

STD (Sexually Transmitted Disease) A disease spread through sexual contact.

Teens on the Line

by Warren J. Blumenfeld

If you have questions about sex and AIDS, Teens TAP is just a phone call away.

"I think I have AIDS," says the voice on the telephone. "I'm scared. What should I do?"

For Laura Bertram, an 18-year-old volunteer for Teens TAP, the national teen AIDS information hotline, this is "the hardest question I get." She tries to put callers at ease, tells them the ways it is possible to get infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, and asks if they have been tested. She also asks if they have friends and trusted adults they can turn to for support. Then she gives them phone numbers of testing sites and support groups in their area.

Laura is one of nearly 70 teenage volunteers who give a few hours each week to Teens TAP (Teens Teaching AIDS Prevention). Each volunteer goes to a 24-hour training session. They discuss the medical and emotional aspects of AIDS, sexuality and safer sex education, and drugs. People living with AIDS come to the training sessions and talk about their lives. The volunteers are taught basic counseling skills, and they are guided through an imaginary journey into their own death so they can be sensitive to how people may feel if they think they have the disease.

Laura got involved with Teens TAP shortly after a speaker from the project spoke at her high school. "AIDS was something I read

about in the newspapers," she says, "but I really didn't think it was something anyone I knew could get." Laura joined the hotline because she wants to help teens get the facts about AIDS, and also because she hopes to work in the field of medicine.

Another Teens TAP volunteer, 15-year-old Jay Fuller, had a different motivation for volunteering. A year ago, Jay's father died from an AIDS-related illness. "When I found out he had AIDS," he recalls, "I didn't think about it for about two weeks. It stunned me. And when he died, I went to different people for support. That helped a lot." Jay signed up for the hotline training primarily to educate himself, and now, he says, "Working on the hotline has become my way of helping."

Most of the teens who call want to know how people get infected with HIV, and how to avoid getting it. Sometimes people call to ask how they can say no to having sex without losing their boyfriend or girlfriend. Both boys and girls ask how they can get over their embarrassment when buying condoms. People whose relatives or friends have AIDS want to know what they can do, and sometimes share their grief. All calls are kept confidential — you don't have to give your name.

"There are nights that are humorous," says Jay, "but there are nights where it's very serious, and many times there's sorrow." Some calls remind him of the loss of his father. "I know what they're going through," he says. Laura uses the skills she has gained on the hotline in other areas of her life. "Now whenever I have a good friend come and talk," she says, "rather than letting a lot of external things get in the way, I can be a lot more personal with people."

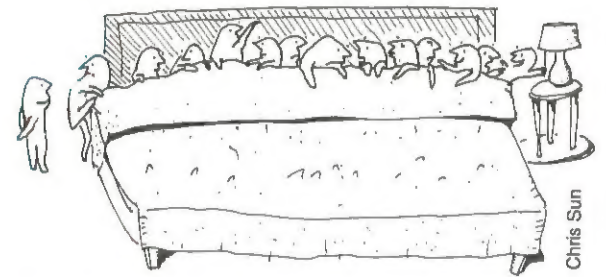
Teens TAP phones are open Monday to Friday from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Central Standard Time and can be reached at 1-800-234-TEEN. All calls are free. Most states also have confidential AIDS hotlines. If you would like to start a Teens TAP chapter in your area or would like more information, write to: Teens TAP, 3940 Walnut Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.

Thinking About SEX

by Bradley R. Cohen and Shoshana Rosenfeld, R.N.

Teens hear a lot of mixed messages about sex. Movies and magazines make it look exciting and romantic. But there are also worries about hurt feelings, pregnancy, and disease. It's easy to feel pressured into having sex by your partner or by your friends, even though you may not feel ready. How can you know what's best for you? Thinking about the following questions may help.

- Have you talked with your girlfriend/boyfriend about having sex? Is this something you both want to do?
- Have you learned about the possible negative consequences of having sex? Do you feel ready to accept responsibility for yourself and your partner?



Remember, when you have sex with someone, in a way you're going to bed with all your partner's past partners, and their past partners, and their past partners.... So, if any of them had AIDS, you could get it too.

- Have you spoken to your girlfriend/boyfriend about using condoms?
- Do you always feel respected by your boyfriend/girlfriend? Do you always show respect for her/him?
- Have you thought about your personal, family, and religious values about sex? How are they different or similar to each other?
- Do you know what you want from having sex? You may want to make a list of your reasons for wanting to have sex, and for wanting to wait. Are some of your reasons better than others?
- Have you talked about your decision with a close friend? With an adult you trust?
- Have you thought about other options for having fun and expressing intimacy? Talking, holding hands, dancing, sharing your problems, and even playing sports are ways to be close with someone else.
- Our society teaches females to be passive and males to be aggressive. How do you fit into this picture? How might this affect your decision about having sex?
- Do you always feel safe with the person with whom you want to have sex?
- Do you only consider having sex if you have been drinking or taking drugs?
- Even the best of relationships does not always last. How would you feel if your girlfriend/boyfriend left you after you had sex together?

Staying Healthy

AIDS is the most serious sexually transmitted disease (STD), but there are many other diseases teens are more likely to get that can be prevented by using condoms during sex. Here's a brief list with some of the symptoms. If you or your partner experience any of these or other unusual symptoms, see your doctor, school nurse, or a health clinic.

Chlamydia (pronounced "klay-mid-ee-ya") Women often have no symptoms, or they may have painful urination, vaginal discharge, or lower abdominal pain. Men usually have a burning sensation when urinating and sometimes a discharge. Chlamydia can be treated with antibiotics.

Genital warts Warts that appear on the genitals, or in women, inside the vagina, can be treated with acid, dry ice, or surgery. It is important to remove all warts to keep the virus from spreading.

Gonorrhea (pronounced "gon-or-ee-ya") Gonorrhea can cause painful urination, a thick milky discharge, pain in the lower abdomen, vomiting, and fever. If the eyes become infected, blindness can result. Women sometimes have no symptoms. Gonorrhea can be treated with penicillin.

Herpes There are two types of herpes. Type I Herpes is very common, and is not an STD. It causes cold sores or fever blisters on the lips, face, and mouth. Type II Herpes causes sores in the genital area that last from three days to two weeks. The disease can usually only be transmitted while sores are present. The virus remains in the body and may cause sores weeks, months, or even years later. There is no cure for herpes, but a prescription cream is available to help clear up the sores.

Syphilis (pronounced "sif-i-liss") This disease has four stages. The first sign is a pimple or open sore, usually on the genitals or mouth, which goes away by itself after five weeks. Untreated, the disease enters a second stage, which may include swollen joints, a sore throat, a mild fever, or headache. During this stage, the disease can be spread by physical contact, including kissing. The third stage may last from 10 to 20 years with no outward symptoms, but the disease can be infecting internal organs. During the last stage, syphilis may cause heart disease, crippling, blindness, or mental illness. The first three stages of syphilis can be completely cured with penicillin.

Maria: They think it's caused by a virus called HIV, or Human Immunodeficiency Virus. "Human" because it is found in people, "immunodeficiency" because it attacks the immune system, and "virus" because it is a virus.

Carla: Wait a minute. My sister has a cold and my mother said that's caused by a virus too. Does that mean I can get AIDS if someone with HIV sneezes on me?

Maria: No. HIV is not like the viruses that cause colds or the flu. You can get those viruses more easily because they can live in the air, in water, and in food. But HIV doesn't live outside the body. You can't get HIV from sneezes or coughs, or from handshakes or hugs. And you can't get it from doorknobs or toilets, or even from insects. So people don't have to be afraid to be around or touch anyone with AIDS.

James: Then how can you get it?

Maria: The virus that causes AIDS is found in blood, a man's semen, a woman's vaginal fluid, and also in breast milk. There are only four ways you can get HIV. One way is by having unprotected sexual intercourse with someone who's infected.

Carla: How can you protect yourself?

Maria: Well, the best way is to not have sex. But I know some kids are having sex, and they need to be really careful. The guys should always use condoms made of latex, because they are the only kind that prevent infection.

James: Condoms? Oh, you mean "rubbers." Some guys call them "skins" and "coats."

Carla: James, you always have a name for everything.

James: Hey, I didn't make them up. But why would I need a condom? I thought only certain types of people get AIDS.

Maria: No, that's one of the biggest and most dangerous mistakes people make. Everybody can get AIDS. It's not who you are, it's what you do.

Carla: What about oral sex?

Maria: Well, they say that if you have oral sex with a guy, you should use a condom, and people who have oral sex with a woman

shouldn't let vaginal fluid get in their mouth.

Carla: Can you deep kiss?

Maria: As long as you and your partner don't have sores in or around the mouth, most doctors think deep kissing is safe.

Carla: My older sister thinks she's safe from AIDS because she uses birth control pills.

Maria: She's wrong. It might prevent her from getting pregnant, but it won't keep her from getting AIDS.

James: I think you're both worrying too much, and you sound like a textbook, Maria. The answer is simple: Just don't have sex with someone who looks sick.

Maria: James, like I said, a person can be infected with the HIV virus for up to 10 years, without having any symptoms. They may look and feel perfectly healthy, but still have HIV. And if you have unprotected sex with them, you can get it. I may sound like a textbook but I don't want you or anybody to get AIDS.

Carla: You said there are four ways to get the virus. You only talked about sex.

Maria: Another is by sharing needles and syringes. When people share needles, infected blood from one person can be transmitted to another. So you should never shoot drugs or steroids. If people are shooting drugs, they should try to get off them and into treatment. If they can't, they should at least sterilize their needles and syringes with bleach to kill the virus. And you should go to a professional for tattoos or having your ears pierced.

James: What about sharing cigarettes or drinks? Can you get it that way?

Maria: No, but if you mean sharing alcoholic drinks, that's part of being careful too. They say that using any mind-altering drug, including alcohol, can make you more likely to do risky things.

Carla: I heard that babies can get AIDS too.

Maria: You're right, Carla. A mother can pass the virus on to her baby when she's pregnant or during birth, and since the virus can exist in breast milk, a baby can also be infected while breast-feeding.

Carla: I bet I know the fourth way someone can get the virus.

James (mockingly): OK, genius. Let's hear it.

Carla: Through blood transfusions. I heard about this boy who has hemophilia. He got the virus because the blood used for a transfusion he needed to help his own blood to clot was infected.

Maria: People did get infected from blood and organ transplants before 1985, when they started testing for the virus. Now transfusions and transplants are pretty safe.

James: What is the test for AIDS?

Maria: Well, there really isn't a test for AIDS, but there are blood tests that can tell if you've been exposed to the HIV virus. Some tests measure antibodies, which are in the blood to fight the virus, and other tests can detect the virus itself.

Carla: Does the test hurt?

Maria: No, not really. The blood test is pretty simple, but deciding whether to have the test can be hard. Before anybody has the test, they should talk to a counselor.

James: We keep talking about AIDS and HIV, but I still don't know the symptoms.

Maria: Some of the early warnings include losing more than 10 pounds suddenly, or if you get a fever that won't go away and night sweats or chills. Other signs are swollen and painful lymph nodes in the neck, armpits, or groin; feeling tired a lot; having diarrhea or a cough that lasts a long time; a sore throat or white spots or patches in the mouth; pink or purple bumps or blotches on the skin; skin that bruises easily; or unexplained bleeding.

James (suddenly feeling his neck): Wait a minute. I have a sore throat.

Maria: Take it easy. These symptoms can happen with other illnesses. If you want to be sure, you should see a doctor.

Carla: James, didn't I see you last night at the game screaming your lungs out?

James (relieved): Oh yeah, I forgot. My throat has been pretty sore since then.

Carla (mockingly): James, you are such a doofus sometimes.

Maria: This just proves my point that there's a lot of misunderstanding and fear when it comes to AIDS. And that's why it's important to talk to people who know the facts.

Resources

National AIDS Hotline:
1-800-342-AIDS
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
All calls are free and confidential.
The hotline can answer questions and refer you to local support groups, counseling, testing centers, and hotlines.

Other national hotlines:

Teens TAP hotline: 1-800-234-TEEN

AIDS Treatment Hotline: Project Inform, 1-800-822-7422

National Sexually Transmitted Diseases Hotline/American School Health Association: 1-800-227-8922

You can call your state or local health department to get information on AIDS prevention efforts in your community. Look under "Health Department" in the government section of your phone book.

National organizations

AIDS Action Council
2033 M St., NW
8th Floor
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 293-2886

Center for Population Options
1012 14th St.
Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 347-5700

Planned Parenthood Federation of America
810 7th Ave.
New York, NY 10019
(212) 541-7800

The National AIDS Information Clearinghouse
PO Box 6003
Rockville, MD 20850
1-800-458-5231

Recommended Readings

Coleman, Warren. *Understanding and Preventing AIDS: A Guide for Young People*. Chicago: Children's Press, 1988.

de Saint Phalle, Niki. *AIDS: You Can't Catch It Holding Hands*. San Francisco: Lapis Press, 1987.

Hein, Karen, M.D. *AIDS: Trading Fears for Facts, A Guide for Teens*. Mount Vernon, New York: Consumers Union, 1989.

Martelli, Leonard, Fran Pelz, and William Messina. *When Someone You Know Has AIDS: A Practical Guide*. New York: Crown Publishers, 1987.

Monette, Paul. *Borrowed Time: An AIDS Memoir*. New York: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, 1988.

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Backstage with LUCY

by Patricia Crotty

The actress's views on clothes, fame, and Degrassi.

"She's a little wild," says 16-year-old Canadian actress Anais Granofsky about Lucy, the character she plays in *Degrassi High*. "Her clothing is wild and she acts a little wild," Anais (pronounced "An-eye-is") adds.

Instead of the bright reds and oranges that Lucy wears, Anais prefers black and white and deep blue. The wardrobe staff for *Degrassi High* picks Lucy's clothes, but "If I really don't like something they won't make me wear it."

Other than that, "There aren't a whole lot of differences" between Lucy and Anais. Lucy's best friends on the set of *Degrassi* – the twins, L.D., and the guys in Zit Remedy – are also Anais's friends off-camera. And both Lucy and Anais are interested in video production, which Anais has learned a lot about during her five years on the show. She recently produced, directed, and wrote a 20-minute film about running away, starring her nine-year-old sister and a friend.

Anais started acting when she was 10, for Owl TV, a children's show aired in Canada.



Fred Phipps

She wants to continue acting, and plans to study it in college. UCLA and NYU are on her list of potential schools.

It is not unusual for people to stop Anais on the street and ask for her autograph. "I've gotten used to it," Anais says. "I'm just friendly with people who recognize me and we go our separate ways." But it can have its drawbacks. "You feel like you have to look good," Anais says. "So when I'm going out looking disgusting – you know, feeling like you're looking really awful – and people recognize me, I say, 'Oh no!'"

When Anais isn't rehearsing, filming, or traveling on publicity trips, she does what many other high school juniors do. "I spend time with friends, I read constantly, I do homework, and I go out," she says. Anais also likes to listen to music, especially reggae and rock.

In the *Degrassi Junior High* program, "Black and White," the character Lucy says that it's hard being called an "Oreo." But it "hasn't caused any problems" in real life for Anais, whose mother is black and father is white. "If anything, it's made it more interesting for me. You get to see two cultures, two backgrounds," she says. "But people say some insulting things without meaning to. If it

bothers me I say something about it, to get it out in the open."

Since *Degrassi* tackles some tough issues, being on the show has helped make Anais more aware. "The abortion show helped me see both sides of an issue when I hadn't before," she says. "It makes you think about new things – just like watching it does."

STEFAN: One of the Zits

by Patricia Crotty

He plays Snake, but can he play the guitar?

"Snake is probably one of the nicer characters on the show," says Stefan Brogan, the tall, lanky 17-year-old who plays Snake on *Degrassi High*. "He has high morals. The problem is he lets Joey talk him into things he doesn't want to do."

That's not a problem for Stefan off-camera. "Snake and I really aren't that similar," Stefan says. "I am a little more outspoken." There are other differences too. Although Snake plays guitar with The Zit Remedy, Stefan doesn't play, except for a small bit on the *Degrassi* theme song. "It's pretty funny – I've been playing it for four years for the show – pretending," he says. "But this year I'm taking a course in guitar." He likes a lot of different kinds of music, from Led Zeppelin and the Rolling Stones to alternative groups like The Smiths. "But to tell you a favorite group – that would be difficult," he says. "Wait . . . The Zit Remedy!"

Off-camera, as well as on, Stefan hangs out with the members of The Zit Remedy – Joey, played by Pat Mastroianni, and Wheels, played by Neil Hope. "Pat lives nearby so he'll pop over or vice versa," Stefan says.

Stefan has been featured in some controversial programs, including the *Degrassi Junior High* episode, "He Ain't Heavy," in which Snake's brother comes home from medical school and tells their parents that he is gay. "I think it's a learning story for Snake, and I agree with the outcome," Stefan says. "You have to face up to reality and love the person. You can't cast him out."

Being involved in this and other shows has caused Stefan to think carefully about a lot of issues. "The show hasn't really changed my attitudes from what I already believed in," he says. "They give kids options – they don't force a moral on the kids. Kids are not going to

always do the right thing, but they have got to do what's right for them."

Being a television star hasn't really changed his home life. "The only effect it's had is instead of asking, 'How was your day at school?' it's, 'How was your day at *Degrassi*?'" he says. Stefan's younger brother has played some small parts in *Degrassi*, and his mother played Kathleen's alcoholic mother in the *Degrassi* program, "Bottled Up."

When he's not busy rehearsing or filming *Degrassi*, Stefan hangs out with friends from his school as well as those from the show. Sometimes he'll bring friends from school to a *Degrassi* party, and vice versa. "I try to split it down the middle between my friends from school and friends from *Degrassi*," he says.

Stefan's plans for the future include finishing his last year of high school and continuing with his acting career. He plans to study television and radio at a university. "I'm pretty happy acting," he says. "It's what I like to do."



Fred Phipps

DIVORCE

by Jan Brogan

When parents announce that they're getting a divorce, kids may feel angry, sad, relieved, anxious, afraid, shocked, ashamed – even guilty. Says one teen, "You always feel that you could have prevented it. And you always wonder why."

"These are common reactions," points out Donald Harvey, who heads a family services program. "Kids have to realize that they do not cause divorce, and they cannot do anything to bring their parents back together." What's important, he adds, is to be aware of what's going on inside, so that you can start to deal with how you feel.

The articles below describe some of the issues teens face after their parents separate.



Michele comforts her dad after her mom moves out.

Stuck in the Middle

The hardest part about my parents getting divorced, says Jennifer, 18, "was the feeling that I was getting stuck in the middle." Her parents split up when she was 15. She and her brother stayed with their mother but went out to dinner every Wednesday with their dad.

"Every week when I got home from dinner, my mother would ask me what my father said," Jennifer recalls. It made her feel strange, so instead of answering, she told her mother to stop asking. "That really helped," she says. Jennifer feels she was able to survive her parents' divorce by staying out of their troubles.

Parents often turn to their teenagers for help and support during a divorce. Although it can be extremely flattering for teenagers to be treated as adults, this can actually be the most damaging part of the divorce. It puts a lot of pressure on teens and can make them feel disloyal to the other parent.

Sometimes this can begin before the divorce, when parents try to get the kids to take their side before a custody battle.

"Did you see the condition your father came home in?" a mother might ask. "Do you hear the way your mother talks to me?" a father might say. Parents sometimes ask their children to be spies, trying to gain information about their spouse's failings. Or they ask kids to keep secrets to prevent the other parent from gaining information on them.

"Kids should realize they have the right to refuse to be a spy, and to refuse to keep secrets," says Dr. Daniel Rosenn, who heads McLean Hospital's Child Outpatient Services.

After the divorce, when each parent may be having a hard time being alone, they may turn to their kids with more complaints, about the other parent or about life in general. They may be having trouble coping with taking care of the household and the kids on their own. They may also be struggling to make ends meet, since they can no longer count on the other person's income.

"Parents make their kids into confidants, telling them their deepest fears, and their remorse. But that's scary for teenagers to hear – particularly if their parents are feeling helpless and out of control," Rosenn says. "When parents reveal things to their kids, it makes the kids question who is in charge. Who can they really rely on?" he adds.

Rosenn suggests that kids try to stand up for themselves and remind their parents that they should look for help instead from their adult friends or a professional counselor.

New Roles, New Rules

One of the strangest things about divorce is that your parents might seem to act like teenagers themselves.

Your newly divorced mother may start borrowing your favorite outfit, or start spending as much time on her hair as you do. Your father might trade in his station wagon for a Firebird, or start playing tennis around the clock.

That's because divorce often brings teen concerns back to the surface – concerns such

as who you are, what you look like, what other people think about you, and how confident you feel with the opposite sex.

"To teens, it may seem like their parents have become kids again," says Dr. Daniel Rosenn. "And it becomes very confusing if parents start talking to kids about things like their sexual relationships. Kids should feel permitted to say that some things make them uncomfortable – that there are some things they do not want to hear."

R C E

Splitting up the Family

When parents get divorced, they have to decide how they will divide what they used to share, such as their house, car, furniture, money, and even minor things like the stereo and the knickknacks on the bookshelf. This is done with a separation agreement, which describes in detail how they will divide everything as well as who has responsibility for raising and supporting the children.

If parents can't agree, the divorce agreement is settled by a judge in court. And often the judge will ask teenage children about their preferences.

"When a kid is over 14, judges really listen to what teens have to say about who should have physical custody over them," says Dr. Daniel Rosenn. "Kids should know they do have a voice, and that everyone can benefit from their opinion."

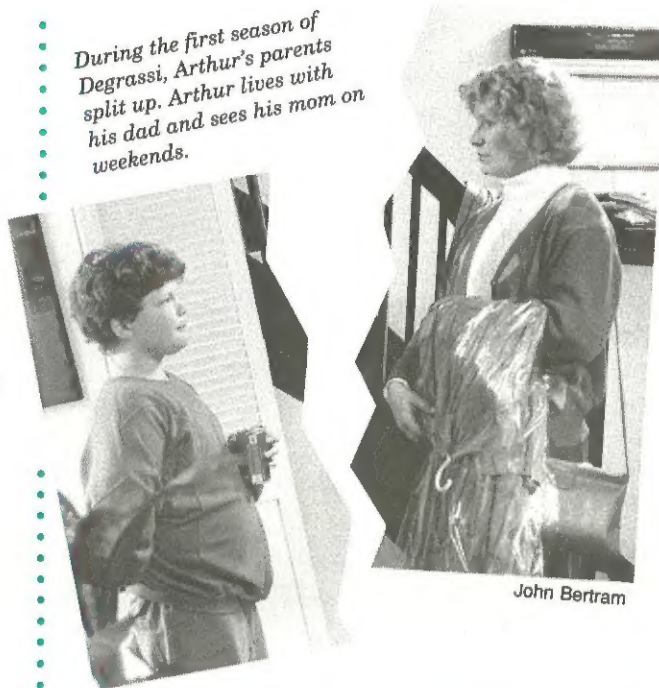
In their book *How to Get It Together When Your Parents Are Coming Apart*, authors Arlene Richards and Irene Willis urge teens to let their parents know where and with whom they would rather live, if they have a preference. You can leave the choice to your parents. But if you want to make the decision and are having difficulty, try basing it on practical considerations. Which parent is going to be living where you want to live? Who has the most time to spend with you? A more similar lifestyle?

You can avoid some of the hurt feelings by softening your language. Instead of telling your mother, "I choose Dad," you can say, "I'd like to try living with Dad." This puts the focus on the living arrangement rather than the parent's personality.

Kids also should try to talk to their parents about how the financial arrangements will affect their lives. This may help if you are trying to decide where to apply for college, or in making simple day-to-day decisions such as how much you can spend on a jean jacket.

Visitation rights are not just a parent's right, the authors point out, but a child's right to stay close with both parents. Since visitation agreements are usually very specific about when, where, and how often you'll get to see one of your parents, kids should talk to their parents about the scheduling and frequency of these visits.

During the first season of *Degrassi*, Arthur's parents split up. Arthur lives with his dad and sees his mom on weekends.



Getting Help

Talking to your friends, especially if you know anyone whose parents have gotten divorced, can help you sort through your feelings. But you may also want to talk to an adult trained to help you handle any problems you're facing, such as a teacher, guidance counselor, therapist, or the parent of a friend.

Your parents can help you find a therapist, or you can call the United Way to find out about counseling services where the fee is based on your ability to pay. You can look for counselors in the yellow pages under Marriage, Family, Child & Individual Counselors, and Mental Health Services. You can also call your local hospital and ask about their outpatient psychiatric services, or call your local family service agency.

FUN FACTS

- Mississippi is the only state that does not have a law requiring children to go to school.
- It is illegal to quack like a duck in Stark, Kansas.



- Imitating animals is forbidden in Miami, Florida.

From: Sueling, Barbara. *It is Illegal to Quack Like a Duck and Other Freaky Laws*. New York: Lodestar Books, Dutton, 1988.

Dear Degrassi,

I'm going to high school this year for the first time. I don't know anyone there and I'm so nervous! Do you have any tips?

— Nervous

Dear Nervous,

I just entered high school, too. I thought everyone would be bigger than me, I might fail, the kids and teachers wouldn't like me. I was totally nervous.

Once I got there, I realized all the other kids were just as nervous as I was! If you just be yourself and relax, you'll make friends quickly. It was a new experience for me and one that I learned from. I really enjoyed it.

— Lucy

Dear Degrassi,

I have a friend who likes to drink a lot. My problem is that he's the one with the car so he usually drives us to parties. What should I do if he's drunk and he won't let me drive his car? He makes me feel like a — Wet Blanket

Dear Wet Blanket,

It's really important to look out for yourself, no matter how much of a hard time your friends give you. Try talking to your friend when he's sober and see if he'll agree to your being the designated driver. If your friend still won't let you drive when he's drunk, maybe you can get a ride with someone else. If there's no one else around and there's no public transportation, you could call a cab as a last resort.

You might ask your parents if they'll pay for a cab or if you can call them for a ride if you get in this situation. They'll probably appreciate your asking. Don't worry that your friend won't think you're cool because you won't ride with him. It's a stupid risk to take just to be cool.

— Wheels

DROPPING OUT

Thoughts from two teens who've been there and back.

In early 1987, 13 teenage editors from *Children's Express* set out to investigate this country's dropout crisis in the only way that made any sense: to talk – kid to kid – with teenagers who had quit school, with those who had returned to give it a second chance, and with others who were fighting against all odds to hang in there.

The rate at which America's teens drop out of school has received a lot of press: One out of every four high school students quits before graduation. Studies have shown strong correlations between the dropout rate and poverty, abuse, teen pregnancy, and the breakdown of the family. For dropouts, the likelihood of being unemployed, requiring welfare, remaining in poverty, or going to jail increases dramatically when they leave school.

The *Children's Express* teen editors wanted to learn about the lives behind the numbers. In teams of two, they traveled to five American cities – Newark, Boston, Kansas City, Dallas, and Oakland – and interviewed hundreds of youths. Below, two teenagers tell their stories about why they left school – and later decided to return.



Wheels drops out to find his birth father after his adopted parents are killed in a car accident.

Carrie, 17

She was a top student, but life at home made life at school hard to take.

I was an accelerated student in elementary school. When I got to junior high, they put me in advanced classes. That's when my emotional stability kind of went freaky on me. It started building up then.

My parents separated when I was in fourth grade. The teachers knew that we were having some family problems. They tried to help me out with that. But I guess you could

say I was ignoring reality. I wasn't dealing with my problems.

By the seventh grade, I realized that not all teachers care. I started partying. I just placed myself in this fantasy world that everything was going to be okay when, actually, my brains were failing and I started using a lot of drugs.

We had to move out of our house that we'd lived in for ten years, and that really made me angry. That was 'cause of the divorce. The amount of money my dad paid us for support was not enough. It was unfair that he could live in a nice house and we had to move into an apartment. That was my eighth-grade year.

By the time we really felt settled, I was in the ninth grade and entering Blue Valley High School. But it was hard because all these kids had a lot of money and a lot of nice clothes, and I didn't. I was living right on the borderline in the only type of apartment building that was in that school district. The rest were all huge houses. I felt like an outcast. I was used to being liked in school. I had grown up with a lot of kids at the other school. All of a sudden, I was with kids that I don't know, and they don't seem to care to know me. I started bumming out on that.

I just placed myself in this fantasy world that everything was going to be okay when, actually, my brains were failing.

It just made me not want to go to school. It made me want to leave class and go to the bathroom and smoke a cigarette. Plus, I don't think I was ready for high school yet. It was really crowded and I was nervous, too. I didn't have any friends there to help give me the

courage to be myself, you know? To really get along with people.

Things just kinda built up. I was missing more and more days. It got so bad that when I would wake up in the morning, I would literally get sick. And then my mother would calm me down and put me back to bed. I'd wake up in the middle of the day and I'd feel fine.

My mom got it set up for me to go here to this school. I started here my ninth-grade year, second semester. I love it. I do. Of course, there's parts about every school that kind of bug you and get on your nerves, but you've got to accept those things.

What's in the future? Junior college. I'm not really sure. I'm interested in getting into the

medical field, and that's a lot of school, a lot of information. I'm not exactly sure how ready I'd be for that. I might as well get into something a little bit simpler, or just build up, like take courses and get into the job as, say, a receptionist. Take courses as I'm working there. That's probably what I want to do.

I wouldn't support the idea of dropping out. I would support the kids, though, and see what is troubling them, why they want to drop out. I'd do my best to keep them in school, to find at least some type of schooling that they would like to stick with. If they kept on insisting on dropping out, then I would make them sit through school until they knew exactly what they were going to do when they dropped out.

I don't mean just work at a gas station, either. You don't drop out to go to work at a gas station. I know some kids that've dropped out and they're doing really well. They just couldn't deal with the high school. But they're still going to have problems getting jobs because people are going to look at them like, hey, you couldn't stick with high school, how are you going to stick with this job?

We need something like Dropouts Anonymous, where teachers, students, parents, administrators, and family members all get to talk about it. Because when you think about it, kids don't really drop out because of the school. They drop out because there's some other personal problem that is affecting the way they came to school.

Charles, 19

He used to cut school a lot. Now he's making up for lost time.

I quit school 'cause they said I missed too many days. I didn't miss that many days, and I didn't want to repeat another semester. So I told them I was going to quit and they said all right. So I quit.

If I hadn't dropped out, right now I would be in junior college working my way up to go to college. I think by the time I reached about 20 to 21, I could already be in college and looking for a good job instead of being right now going to turn 20 and still in high school.

You gotta stick with your education. You gotta go with it all the way, so when you come looking for a job, you have so many years behind what you want to do, they're more likely to hire you than somebody with a year, two years' experience in that. And you already have four years of college and everything.

You have to go the highest you can, whatever you want to do — electronics, drafting, computer technician. It doesn't make any difference. You gotta just be your best and try. My parents did graduate and everything, but some of my uncles, they didn't graduate. And they're saying try to learn from their mistakes, you know. Keep going to school.

Nowadays the jobs are gettin' harder. You have to have some kind of background to go and look for a good job.

Right now I've got a job. I'm hoping to hurry

up and get my GED or diploma or whatever you get through this school. And afterwards, just start going to junior college and help me out to go to college. I want to be something

If I hadn't dropped out, right now I would be in junior college working my way up to college. By the time I reached about 20 to 21, I could have been in college and looking for a good job instead of being 20 and still in high school.

like my father. He's graduated from four years of college. And now he's making infrared lenses and stuff. I would like to do something like that. It would hopefully brighten up my life. So if I ever want to get married, I'd have something there for me.

Keep on going no matter how hard it gets. You gotta learn from other people's mistakes. And that's one thing I didn't do — learn from other people's mistakes.

Adapted and excerpted from *When I Was Young I Loved School*, by Children's Express. Edited by Anne Sheffield and Bruce Frankel. © 1989 by Children's Express Foundation, Inc., N.Y. Reprinted with permission. To order the book, send a check or money order for \$12.45 to Children's Express, 245 7th Avenue, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10001-7302.

MORE FUN FACTS

• Dropped a book on your toe? It takes your brain one-fiftieth of a second to find out and say, "Ouch."



• Next time you wonder if a friend is happy to see you, look into his or her eyes. Scientists say that our pupils get bigger when we spot something or someone we like. And they get smaller when we see something we don't like.

• Can't sleep? Think rain. Sleep experts say that the most relaxing thing a person can do is to imagine lots of slanting rain.

• Stars are different colors, depending on their temperature. Very hot stars are blue-white, cool stars are red, and medium-hot stars are yellow.

From: Editors of OWL Magazine. *Weird and Wonderful*. New York: Price, Stern, Sloan, Inc., 1987.

Chris Sun

DEGRASSI TRIVIA QUIZ

1. What is Spike's baby's name?
2. What was Stephanie's campaign slogan?
3. What did Lucy and Voula steal?
4. What was the name of the substitute teacher who liked Lucy?
5. Who discovered the fire at *Degrassi Junior High*?
6. What phone-in show did Yick and Arthur call?
7. How was Melanie going to pay back the money she "borrowed" from her mother?

8. What seems to be the most popular professional rock band at *Degrassi*?
9. In what city was Wheels's birth father playing when Wheels ran away to join him?
10. What are the "real" names of the following characters: Snake, Wheels, Scooter?
11. What does L.D. stand for? B.L.T.?
12. What causes is Caitlin interested in?
13. When Alexa broke up with Simon, who did she go out with?
14. What did Yick and Arthur give each other for Christmas?
15. What are the school colors?
16. How old was Spike's mother when she had Spike?
17. Why is Lucy working in the day care center?
18. Where did Joey take Caitlin on their "bet" date?
19. What happened to the condoms that Wheels bought?
20. Has Mr. Lawrence ever been seen on screen?

Degrassi Wins Awards

Since *Degrassi* first went on the air in 1987, it has won numerous awards, including:

- International Emmy – Best Children's Program
- Action for Children's Television Award
- Parents' Choice Award
- American Film & Video Festival – Blue Ribbon
- Television Critics Association – Best Children's Series
- American Children's Television Festival – Ollie Award

The series has also been endorsed by:

- American Association of School Administrators
- American Federation of Teachers
- Boys Clubs of America
- National Education Association
- National Middle School Association
- National Resource Center for Middle Grades Education
- Search Institute

Credits

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WGBH Design

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17. It was her community service work after being caught shoplifting, and she enjoyed it, so she stayed on after her service time was over.

18. To a movie and for a coke at 13 Busy Street.

19. Joey and Wheels used them for water bombs.

20. Yes, he attended the Wheelers' funeral, though he was not identified.

Scoring

0-5 correct: You don't have a TV, right?

6-10 correct: Your older brother makes you watch professional wrestling.

11-15 correct: You do your homework while you watch.

16-20 correct: A true *Degrassi* fan.

Answers

1. Emma.

2. "All the way with Stephanie Kaye."

3. A sweater.

4. Mr. Colby.

5. Tessa and Scooter.

6. Sex with Dr. Sally.

7. Babysitting.

8. The Gourmet Scum.

9. Port Hope.

10. Archie Simpson, Derek Wheeler, Scott Webster.

11. Lorraine Delacourt, Bryant L. Thomas.

12. The environment, animal rights.

13. B.L.T.

14. Yick gave Arthur a calculator; Arthur gave Yick a glasses strap.

15. Purple and blue.

16. Seventeen.

Degrassi High
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